

Scenic Snowmobiling Tour

Looking for some beautiful winter scenery to enjoy from the comfort of your snowmobile? Acadia National Park has some of the most spectacular views in Maine. Located on Mount Desert Island, the park is a combination of mountains, ocean, lakes, and woodlands.

Begin your ride from the Summer Visitor Center parking lot in Halls Cove, which is kept plowed in the winter. After unloading your machine, enter onto the 27 mile Park Loop Road, which remains unplowed in the winter, except for a 2 mile stretch between Sand Beach and Otter Cliff, and one mile at Jordan Pond. Be extremely careful as you approach these areas because there may be cars driving in the plowed lane.

Along the wooded sections of the road, stop and savor the sounds of the snow swishing from the trees or ice crackling on branches as they're tossed about by the winter wind. Look for animal tracks in the snow and try to guess what may have been running, hopping, or scurrying across the snow before you arrived. Better yet, take a track finder field guide with you!

As you continue your ride on the loop road, views of the Atlantic Ocean will open up before you. Stop at Sand Beach and possibly enjoy being the only one there, unlike in the summer! The sounds of the powerful ocean beating on the rocks, and the cries of the gulls flying overhead will serenade you as you progress along the coast. Look for large rafts of eider ducks in the water.

A ride up Cadillac Mountain is a great way to end your ride, although you could start there, as well. On your way up the summit road, enjoy the icicle-covered pink granite cliffs and views of Eagle Lake and Bar Harbor. The summit of the mountain offers views in every direction, including the Cranberry Isles, Schoodic Peninsula, and the Porcupine Islands in Frenchman Bay.

You may also ride on park roads on the west side of the island. See the map for all snowmobile routes and parking areas.

Have a safe and enjoyable snowmobile ride in Acadia National Park.



ALWAYS KEEP SAFETY IN MIND!

- Always slow down when approaching or passing other snowmobiles.
- Always yield to pedestrians, including hikers, skiers, and snowshoers.
- Do not speed!
- Stay to the right and park in single file when you stop.
- Conditions of the ice on lakes vary drastically depending on temperature, snowcover, and thickness of the ice. Play it safe-stay off the ice.

Winter Camping

Off-season camping is permitted only at Blackwoods Campground, located on Route 3 East, approximately 5.5 miles south of Bar Harbor. All campsites are situated in woods, within a 10 minute walk of the ocean. One vehicle, six people, and two small tents or one large tent are allowed at a campsite. No pull through sites are available. There are no utility hook-ups. A dump station at Tapley's gas station in Bar Harbor is available year round. Campground facilities are limited to picnic tables, fire rings, chemical toilets and a hand pump for drinking water.

- Self register at the campground entrance station porch. The registration system is for your safety.
- Gather only dead and down firewood. Firewood is available for purchase in Otter Creek.
- Maximum length of stay is 30 days.
- There is no backcountry camping at Acadia National Park. The park is small and fragile.

Other Accommodations

The park has no overnight accommodations except the campground. Lodging is available in nearby communities. For further information, please write or call:

Chamber of Commerce, Bar Harbor, ME 04609, 800-288-5103; 288-5103
www.barharborinfo.com
Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679, 800-423-9264; 244-9264
www.acadiachamber.com



Federal law requires that seat belts are worn when driving or riding as a passenger in a national park.



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Simple Things You Can Do to Save Acadia

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Individuals who wished to protect its natural and historic qualities set Acadia aside for preservation in 1916. Thanks to their foresight, we can still enjoy essentially the same place they preserved. In fact, many have grown to love Acadia, which receives an annual visitation of over three million people each year. However, three million sets of feet, the automobiles that bring visitors, and individual acts of litter and wear and tear can leave a significant impact on this very small and fragile national park. Following are some ideas to help minimize those impacts. It's up to each and every one of us to leave the park in better condition than when we arrived, so our children's children can one day enjoy an unimpaired, beautiful Acadia National Park, just as we do today.

- 1 Stay on trails.** Hiking in the center of the treadway especially in the late fall, winter and early spring avoids trail widening. You can prevent trampling of plants, flowers, and tree roots, which can lead to erosion. Hike and rest on durable surfaces whenever possible. Remember that plants grow by the inch and die by the foot! Go through trail puddles - not around them.
- 2 Stay attached to your dog.** Leashes protect dogs from becoming lost, injured by porcupines, or infected with rabies. Keeping dogs leashed is courteous to other visitors and protects wildlife. Unleashed dogs sometimes harass, injure, and kill wildlife whose home this is. Failure to leash your dog may result in a fine. Skiers appreciate when walkers and their pets avoid walking in ski tracks.
- 3 Leave what you find.** Removing natural and historic objects such as beach cobbles, flowers, starfish, and antlers degrades the park and threatens species survival. Over three million people visit this small island every year. Imagine if every visitor took something from the park. What would be left? Collecting is prohibited.
- 4 Pack it in. Pack it out.** Carry out anything you have carried into the park. Better yet, carry out any other litter you find. Properly dispose of human waste in a cathole six inches deep and at least 100 feet from trails and water. Even better, make use of the many restrooms available in the park before you hit the trail.
- 5 Learn more about Acadia.** Join a ranger-led walk, hike, cruise, or evening program. Topics cover the natural and cultural history of the park. The more you know about and understand the unique qualities of your national park, the more determined you may become to help this "crown jewel" survive through the new millennium.
- 6 Recycle.** Several receptacles in the park offer the opportunity to discard your rubbish, and to recycle plastics and glass at the same time. It's easy! Just carefully read the labels on the lids of receptacles to determine which are for rubbish and which are for recyclables.
- 7 Camp in designated campgrounds.** Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds because the park is small and fragile. In the winter there are limited camping spaces within Acadia National Park. Check with a ranger for more information.
- 8 Shhh...** Respect natural silence. Stop and listen. An astounding world of sound exists in national parks, whether it's birdsong, a lake lapping on shore, or a breeze in the trees. As the din from civilization grows, national parks are valued for the respite they offer. Not only that, but you are showing respect to your fellow visitors who are also seeking a quality national park experience.
- 9 Keep wildlife wild.** Wild animals fed by people often starve in winter, are hit by cars, or become dangerous pests. Do not feed wild animals or birds.
- 10 Join our Friends.** Friends of Acadia is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the long-term protection of Acadia National Park and its region. Friends of Acadia channels private donations to conservation and historic preservation projects in the park, monitors planning and legislative activities affecting Acadia, and publishes the Friends of Acadia Journal. Contact Friends of Acadia, PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, ME, 04609; 800-625-0321; www.friendsofacadia.org

- 11 Buy your Entry Permit.** Purchasing your annual Entry Permit or one as a gift for someone else is an investment in your national park. Your fees directly benefit Acadia National Park, which means you benefit from improved facilities, protection, and educational programs. Examples of your fees at work include repairs to carriage-road bridges and outdoor exhibits at the visitor center.
- 12 Leave the rocks for the next glacier.** Following painted blazes and stone markers (cairns) on hiking trails without adding to them is important. Moving rocks can destroy the plants around them, building extra cairns can mislead other hikers and get them lost, and rock sculptures ruin the natural scene created by glaciers long ago. It's just another kind of graffiti, and who wants to travel hundreds of miles to see graffiti in their national park?
- 13 Volunteer.** A stint as a volunteer can range from a brief few hours one morning, to an entire season. Volunteers answer visitor questions, help maintain trails, assist at campgrounds, and more! Check out the call for volunteers in this paper, and for more information or a volunteer application, call 288-3338, or visit www.nps.gov/volunteer/
- 14 Drink clean water.** Having a glass of water with your meal? Chances are, that water came from one of several public water supplies on the island, namely a lake or pond. Acadia is a place of water. Lakes fill valleys carved by glaciers, streams rush through forests, and the sea pounds the shore. Not only is drinking water derived from freshwater sources, but also they are home to fish, wildlife, and other aquatic species. They provide scenic beauty and recreational opportunities. When near a lake or pond, stay on trails and tread lightly to prevent erosion. Likewise, tread lightly along the ocean shoreline in the intertidal zone where thousands of creatures may come underfoot. When observing tidepool creatures, return them to where you found them to help ensure their survival.
- 15 Join Eastern National.** If you bought a map, book, postcard or anything else in the bookstore at Acadia's winter visitor center, you have supported Acadia via the cooperating association Eastern National. Eastern National is a nonprofit agency that provides quality educational products and services to America's national parks and other public trusts. Eastern National's contributions have benefited parks and visitors by supporting research, educational and interpretive projects, and even by funding the newspaper you are currently reading. Joining Eastern National supports your parks, and gives you 15% off merchandise in any Eastern National store! Visit www.easternnational.org
- 16 Donate.** Acadia was the first national park created solely from donated lands. It was not carved from the public domain as were Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, or Yosemite; rather it was set aside by generous individuals who wished to see the beauties of this island preserved in perpetuity. Today, people continue to donate to Acadia in both small and great ways. Though limited by law, on which lands may be accepted for donation, Acadia does accept and oversee donations of scenic conservation easements on private islands. Many people donate their time as volunteers (see "Volunteer" above) or drop pocket change into the donation boxes at the visitor center, Islesford Historical Museum, or Nature Center. Each donation perpetuates the vision and stewardship of those people who first gave their lands to create a national park on the coast of Maine.
- 17 Conserve at home.** Acadia National Park is not isolated from the rest of the world. Air pollution, for instance, is a regional problem. The downeast currents may carry pollution -- produced by power plants, manufacturers, traffic, etc. -- from urban areas along the northeast coast. With a change of winds, pollution may find its way to Acadia from the midwest. Air pollution may haze Acadia's scenic views, and it leads to ozone alerts, which pose health hazards to children, those with respiratory problems, and the elderly. There is much that can be done at home to help Acadia: use public transportation, turn off the lights when you don't need them, use energy-efficient bulbs, recycle, plant a tree, minimize use of household chemicals, don't waste water... The steps you take can be minimal, but may have significant and positive impacts for your immediate area, as well as your more distant national parks.